

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 166653

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:JETHYDEN

APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS

ARA/LA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER

ARA/PLC:SQUIGG

PM:GCHURCHILL

DOD/ISA:COL. TAUSTIN

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P R 061546Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

CNO ,RUCBSAA/CINCLANTFLT

USCOMSOLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166653

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TD, US

SUBJECT: UNITAS XVII

REF: A) 75 PORT OF SPAIN 3101, B) PORT OF SPAIN 1546

1. STATE AND DOD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S EARLY WARNING OF POSSIBLE POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS IN EXERCISE/VISIT INVOLVING TRINIDAD, AND WE SHARE YOUR CONCERNS. IN VIEW OF HISTORY OF COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. NAVY AND TRINIDAD COAST GUARD AND FACT THAT TRINIDAD WAS INCLUDED THIS YEAR AT REQUEST OF GOTT (REF A), WE WOULD NOT WANT TO ALTER PLAN WITHOUT REQUEST TO DO SO FROM GOTT.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH GOTT AND SEEK FIRM GOTT DECISION ON PARTICIPATION.

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PAGE 02 STATE 166653

REFERRING TO CONVERSATION WITH MAHABIR (REF B), YOU MAY SAY

USG VALUES TRINIDAD COAST GUARD PARTICIPATION BUT WOULD NOT WISH UNITAS EXERCISE OR VISIT TO PORT OF SPAIN TO BECOME OCCASION FOR DEMONSTRATION OR CHARGES OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN TRINIDADIAN ELECTORAL PROCESS. USG WILL, OF COURSE, ACCEPT GOTT JUDGMENT ON THIS QUESTION AND WILL CANCEL EXERCISE WITH TRINIDAD AND VISIT IF GOTT SO WISHES.

3. IF CHANGE NECESSARY, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO RESCHEDULE TRINIDAD PARTICIPATION THIS YEAR, AND UNITAS FLEET WOULD HAVE TO MAKE PORT CALL SOMEWHERE ELSE TO REFUEL. MOST LIKELY ALTERNATIVE IS PUERTO LA CRUZ, VENEZUELA. DECISION NEEDED PRIOR TO JULY 15.
ROBINSON

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